# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

MIMOSE FLEURY

29 East Line Street

Pennsgrove, NJ 08069

**CIVIL ACTION** 

Plaintiff,

No.:

v.

TPS PARKING MANAGEMENT, LLC

d/b/a The Parking Spot 7780 Essington Ave Philadelphia, PA 19153

Defendant.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

**CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT** 

Plaintiff, by and through her undersigned counsel, hereby avers as follows:

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. This action has been initiated by Mimose Fleury (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff," unless indicated otherwise) against TPS Parking Management, LLC (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant" unless indicated otherwise) for violations of the Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA" - 29 U.S.C. §§ 2601 et. seq.) and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act ("PHRA" - 43 P.S. §§ 951 et. seq.). As a direct consequence of Defendant's unlawful actions, Plaintiff seeks damages as set forth herein.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Plaintiff plans to amend the instant complaint to include claims under the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended ("ADAAA" - 42 USC §§ 12101 *et. seq.*) if and when those claims become administratively exhausted with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"). Plaintiff currently has a charge pending with the EEOC (Charge No.: 530-2013-01234). Those claims will be similar to Plaintiff's PHRA claims as set forth herein.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 2. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over the instant action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343(a)(4) because it arises under the laws of the United States and seeks redress for violations of federal laws. There lies supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state-law claims because they arise out of the same common nucleus of operative facts as Plaintiff's federal claims asserted herein.
- 3. This Court may properly maintain personal jurisdiction over Defendant because its contacts with this state and this judicial district are sufficient for the exercise of jurisdiction over Defendant to comply with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice, satisfying the standard set forth by the United States Supreme Court in *International Shoe Co. v. Washington*, 326 U.S. 310 (1945) and its progeny.
- 4. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(1) and (b)(2), venue is properly laid in this district because all of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district, and Defendant is deemed to reside where it is subject to personal jurisdiction, rendering Defendant a resident of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

#### **PARTIES**

- 5. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
  - 6. Plaintiff is an adult individual, with an address as set forth in the caption.
- 7. Defendant is a for-profit entity which operates parking garages at airports throughout the United States including the one at which Plaintiff was formerly employed in Philadelphia, PA (located at the above captioned address).

- 8. At all times relevant herein, Defendant acted by and through their agents, servants, and employees, each of whom acted at all times relevant herein in the course and scope of their employment with and for Defendant.
- 9. Defendant has and continues to employ over 50 employees per calendar year for at least the last 5 years, and Defendant engages in a variety of business relationships generating revenue by engaging in the business of operating parking lots.

### **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

- 10. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
  - 11. Plaintiff was hired by Defendant in or about June of 2007 as a cashier.
- 12. Plaintiff has and continues to suffer from various mental and physical impairments including but not limited to anxiety and hypertension.
- 13. Plaintiff's aforementioned impairments limit her from enjoying several major life activities including but not limited to at times working, running, exercising, concentrating, communicating, and other activities.
- 14. In or about August of 2012, Plaintiff took a brief medical leave from work for approximately one week due to her aforementioned disabilities.
- 15. Plaintiff informed Defendant's management that her aforementioned medical leave was related to her disabilities.

3

- 16. Defendant's management did not provide Plaintiff with any notification of her rights under the Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA"), as required by the provisions of the FMLA (although Plaintiff was eligible for such leave).<sup>2</sup>
- 17. Upon Plaintiff's return to work, Plaintiff was informed that she was being removed from full-time status and being put "on call" because there was no full-time position available for her.
- 18. Although Plaintiff regularly called in to ask for shifts, Plaintiff was only assigned one (1) shift following her return from medical leave, which was on or about September 3, 2012.
- 19. Soon after Plaintiff's final shift on or about September 3, 2012, Plaintiff asked Defendant's management about returning to work full time.
- 20. Defendant's management told Plaintiff that she would have to reapply if she wanted a full time position.
- 21. Defendant's management never gave Plaintiff another shift following September 3, 2012, even though she repeatedly asked for more shifts.
- 22. Plaintiff took a brief medical leave and was immediately removed from her full time position upon her return to work. After Plaintiff was placed on call, she was only ever called in for one shift, effectively resulting in the termination of her employment.
- 23. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff believes and therefore avers that she had her hours reduced and was subsequently terminated due to her medical conditions and/or because of her medical leave.

4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> An employee need not specifically mention the FMLA when requesting leave in order to trigger the protections of the act. *See St. Cyr v. Brandywine Senior Living, LLC*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 85426, 14-15 (D.N.J. 2012) (holding that an eligible employee only need request time off for a serious health condition and it is the employer's responsibility to inquire further and determine if the leave is FMLA qualifying or not.)

# COUNT I <u>Violations of the Family & Medical Leave Act ("FMLA")</u> (Interference & Retaliation)

- 24. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
  - 25. Plaintiff was employed with Defendant for over one year.
- 26. Plaintiff had at least 1,250 hours of service with the Defendant during her last full year of employment.
  - 27. Plaintiff took an FMLA qualifying leave.
- 28. Defendant's management did not provide Plaintiff with the required notification of rights pursuant to the FMLA, although they knew of her leave pursuant to her medical condition and knew that she was qualified for FMLA leave.
- 29. Upon Plaintiff's return from her aforementioned medical leave, Defendant's management did not reinstate Plaintiff to her previous position and instead told her that her previous position was unavailable.
- 30. Defendant's management placed Plaintiff into an on-call position and terminated her in exceedingly close proximity to her use of FMLA-qualifying leave.
- 31. Defendant's management also attempted to dissuade Plaintiff from utilizing FMLA leave by not providing her with the proper notifications.
- 32. Plaintiff therefore believes that she was terminated for FMLA qualifying absences and/or or to prevent her from taking further FMLA leave in the future, actions which constitute interference and retaliation under the FMLA.

#### COUNT II

# Violations of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act ("PHRA") (Discrimination & Retaliation)

- 33. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 34. Plaintiff properly exhausted her administrative remedies before proceeding in this Court for violations of the PHRA by timely filing a Charge with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission ("PHRA") and by waiting at least one (1) year before filing the instant complaint.
- 35. Defendant's management terminated Plaintiff's employment extremely soon after she disclosed her health conditions to management and utilized medical leave (as discussed *supra*).
- 36. Plaintiff was terminated by Defendant because of: (1) her known health conditions; (2) her perceived health conditions; and/or (3) due to her record of impairment.
- 37. Plaintiff was also terminated in retaliation for requesting and/or utilizing medical accommodations from Defendant (in the form of a brief medical leave).
- 38. These actions as aforesaid constitute unlawful discrimination and retaliation under the PHRA.

### WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this Court enter an Order providing that:

A. Defendant is to compensate Plaintiff, reimburse Plaintiff, and make Plaintiff whole for any and all pay and benefits Plaintiff would have received had it not been for Defendant's illegal actions, including but not limited to back pay, front pay, salary, pay increases, bonuses, insurance, benefits, training, promotions, reinstatement, and seniority.

B. Plaintiff is to be awarded liquidated damages, as permitted by applicable law,

including the Family and Medical Leave Act, in an amount believed by the Court or trier of fact

to be appropriate to punish Defendant for its willful, deliberate, malicious and outrageous

conduct and to deter Defendant or other employers from engaging in such misconduct in the

future;

C. Plaintiff is to be accorded other equitable and legal relief as the Court deems just,

proper, and appropriate (including but not limited to damages for emotional distress / pain and

suffering, as permitted by applicable law, including the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act);

D. Plaintiff is to be awarded the costs and expenses of this action and reasonable

attorney's fees as provided by applicable federal and state law.

E. Plaintiff is to be given a jury trial as demanded in the caption of the instant

Complaint.

Respectfully submitted,

KARPF, KARPF & CERUTTI, P.C.

By:

Ari R. Karpf, Esq.

3331 Street Road

Two Greenwood Square, Suite 128

Bensalem, PA 19020

(215) 639-0801

Dated: August 5, 2014

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

## **CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM**

CIVIL ACTION

Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address			
(215) 639-0801	(215) 639-4970	akarpf@karpf-law.com	***************************************		
Date	Attorney-at-law	Attorney for			
8/5/2014	Ari R. Karpf	Plaintiff	(X)		
(f) Standard Management - Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks.					
commonly referred to a	s complex and that need	o tracks (a) through (d) that are special or intense management by stailed explanation of special	( )		
(d) Asbestos – Cases involence exposure to asbestos.	ving claims for personal	injury or property damage from	( )		
(c) Arbitration - Cases req	uired to be designated fo	r arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	( )		
(b) Social Security – Cases and Human Services de	requesting review of a comping plaintiff Social Se	lecision of the Secretary of Health curity Benefits.	( )		
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases	s brought under 28 U.S.C	2. § 2241 through § 2255.	( )		
SELECT ONE OF THE I	FOLLOWING CASE M	ANAGEMENT TRACKS:			
filing the complaint and ser side of this form.) In the designation, that defendant	Case Management Track leve a copy on all defendant of event that a defendant of shall, with its first appearanties, a Case Manageme	Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsing Designation Form in all civil cases at the tists. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the redoes not agree with the plaintiff regarding arance, submit to the clerk of court and serent Track Designation Form specifying the assigned.	me of		
TPS Parking Managemed/b/a The Parking Spot	•	NO.			
, <b>v.</b>	:				
Mimose Fleury		CIVIL ACTION			

(Civ. 660) 10/02

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to assignment to appropriate calendar.	be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of						
Address of Plaintiff: 29 East Line Street, Pennsgrove, NJ 08069							
Address of Defendant: 7780 Essington Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19153							
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Defendant's place of business (Use Reverse Side For	Additional Space)						
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation	and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?						
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(	a)) Yes□ No <b>M</b>						
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes□ No <b>X</b>						
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:	D. M. 1.1						
Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:						
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:							
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one	year previously terminated action in this court?						
	Yes□ No□						
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prio action in this court?	r suit pending or within one year previously terminated						
	Yes□ No□						
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier							
terminated action in this court?	Yes□ No□						
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rig	hts case filed by the same individual?						
·	Yes□ No□						
CIVIL: (Place / in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)							
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:						
1. □ Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts						
2. □ FELA	2. □ Airplane Personal Injury						
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. Assault, Defamation						
4. Antitrust	4. □ Marine Personal Injury						
5. Patent	5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury						
	J. J						
6. Dabor-Management Relations	6. Dother Personal Injury (Please specify)						
7. M Civil Rights	7. Products Liability						
8. Habeas Corpus	8. Products Liability — Asbestos						
9.  Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases						
10. Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)						
11.   All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify)							
ARBITRATION CER	TIEICATION						
(Check Appropriate	Category)						
I, ATI R. KAIPI , counsel of record do hereby cer  Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge an							
\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;	, and the same of						
□ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.							
DATE: 8/5/2014	ARK2484						
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.# 91538						
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if the	nere has been compliance with P.R.C.P. 38.						
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending o except as noted above.	r within one year previously terminated action in this court						
DATE: 8/5/2014	ARK2484						
Attorney-at-Law CIV. 609 (5/2012)	Attorney I.D.# 91538						

JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

## **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS									
Fleury, Mimose				TPS Parking	Mana	igem	ent,	LLC d/b/a Tł	ne Parking S	pot		
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Salem (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Philadelphia						1		
				(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.								
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Numb	er)		Attorneys (If Kno	wn)							
Karpf, Karpf & Cerutti, F Suite 128, Bensalem, PA	PC, 3331 Street Road,	Two Greenwood S		, ,	ŕ							
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Brief description of ca	ntute under which you ar cal Leave Act "FM ause: FMLA and the Pen		o not cite jurisdictional JSC2611	statutes		s dive	ersity):				
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION		EMAND \$	7113 7 1	<u> </u>		HECK YES only i	f demanded in	comp		:
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE				DOC	KET	NUMBER				
DATE 85/201	4	SIGNATURE OF ATI	TORNEY O	F RECORD								
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			/									
RECEIPT # AN	MOUNT	ADDI VING IED		HIDGE	:			MAGILID	CE			